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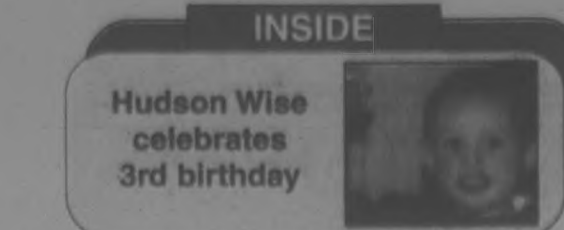
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 35 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 13, 2003 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Stephens named to Water Study Management team for Wiregrass

Robert Stephens, Chairman of the Coffee County Commission, has been appointed to serve on a Study Management Team for Phase II of the Regional Water Reservoir Project Analysis.

The team is working through the Chocomahtee, Pea, and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to learn the long term water needs for the ten county Wiregrass region. They are also studying water flows and other factors in creeks and rivers of the region in an effort to find sufficient water to fill the grow-

ing water needs of the Wiregrass citizens.

As engineers report a continuing drop in area water tables in underground water reservoirs, five sites have already been selected as potential locations for one or more surface water drinking water reservoirs to fill these expanding needs.

The Study Management Team was scheduled to meet on Wednesday of this week. The purpose of this meeting is to study the Phase II analysis and review the draft scope of the work, as compiled by Corp of Engineer staff members.



VALENTINES FOR THE SWEETIES Retired Elba residents Sammie and Jake Morrow were caught by the camera in a local store Tuesday afternoon as they purchased special Valentine cards for each of their five grandchildren . . . the three boys and two girls. The Tuesday purchase will give plenty of time to get the cards addressed and in the mail to reach their destination by February 14th.



BALLARD BRIDGE, looking West, as construction on the new Highway 134 span over Pea River progresses. Workers have already completed the extended western approach to the bridge. Workers have already gotten across the main flow of the river with both their vertical and horizontal supports for the bridge. After completion, this bridge will be wider to accommodate modern day vehicle traffic. The lengthened (and raised) approaches will keep the roadway open to traffic longer during times when the Pea River floods from its banks. On the Western side the approach was built up on pilings to allow frequent flood waters to pass under the roadway without disrupting traffic.

Elba City Council gives approval for first two alcohol licenses following advertised public hearings

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

On Monday night the Elba City Council unanimously gave final approval on two applications for licenses to sell alcoholic beverages within the city limits of Elba. This will be the first legal sale of alcohol in Elba since prior to prohibition and possibly the very first legal sale ever. Following a petition drive that was presented to the local city government requesting a vote on the issue, Elba citizens voted last November to approve the legal sale of alcohol within the city limits. Local tax income generated the sale of alcoholic beverages has been earmarked by the Elba City Council to bolster the financially strapped local public schools. Dropping state funding has kept the local school system in a money crunch for the last several years.

Following a required public hearing, Elba Texaco Food Mart was granted a city license for off premise sale of beer and wine. Friendship Package Store #2 was granted a city license to sell liquor for off premise consumption. There were no protests voiced to the city council on either license request during the public hearings.

Each licensee will immediately

receive a letter of commitment from the City of Elba for presentation to the state ABC board for further approval from the state agency. Upon approval and issuance of a state license, the applicant can receive a license from the City of Elba and be in business to legally sell their respective alcohol products.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported that drug arrests are way up, as indicated on the monthly activity report presented to the city council. At 26 drug arrests during the month, there was an increase of 19 arrests for January.

The Elba police also participated in busting six myth labs within the county, some in the city limits and the others out in the county. During the first ten days of February they participated in an additional three myth labs bust. A total of 25 arrests were made by city, county and state officials in connection with these illegal drug manufacturing operations.

The monthly police activity report also showed that criminal arrests jumped by 54 to a total of 76 while traffic arrests dropped by 68 to a total of 51 and traffic warnings were down by a whopping 204, or two-thirds. Accident investigations

were down by three, but DUI arrests were up by two. Police officers drove 15,802 miles of official mileage during the month of January. There were 105 calls received from the public for service during this time period.

The council accepted the low bids on supplies for the recreation program. A total of five bidders bid on dozens of recreation items to be used throughout the year. The low bidder on each individual item was awarded the bid only on that item. Purchases will be made throughout the year when and if the equipment is needed by the recreation department and participating ball teams.

Mayor Grimes announced approval of a \$400,000 CDBG downtown revitalization study grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). A letter from Governor Bob Riley announced the approval on January 31st.

The council also approve a resolution requesting \$110,000 in grant funds from ADECA to install a sewer line from the existing sewer system to Kelley Foods as a reaction to planned expansion at the local facility. There is a requirement for \$23,831 in local match money

for this project and the resolution signed by the council committed the city to supply this match money.

Monthly bills totaling \$12,241.13 were approved for payment. They included \$2,668.33 for vehicle and equipment repairs; \$1,519.51 for asphalt mix and \$1,099.40 for sewer supplies.

Mayor James Grimes reported that city finances are in good shape. He said, "Revenue and expenses look real good right now." Revenue is up for the first three months of the fiscal year and expenses for the most part are lower than budgeted. Grimes noted that sales tax revenue for December 2002 compared to December 2001 was \$156,354 and \$140,000 respectively. That is an increase of about \$16,000 for December, usually the biggest sales tax month of the year.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported that the ongoing paving project is complete, except for final inspection. He added that the levee rehab project is going real well and there are now five pending applications for alcohol licenses.

The council also gave final approval to abandonment of John Street, off Winston Street.

Congressman Terry Everett introduces terrorist elimination Act of 2003

Congressman Terry Everett, R-Alabama, has introduced legislation to provide the Federal government with more options to stop terrorists if our national security is at risk. The Terrorist Elimination Act (HR 356) lifts the Federal government's ban on assassination of terrorist leaders who pose a direct threat to our national security.

Congressman Everett, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, sees a critical need for HR 356 in view of the new non-conventional threats America faces in the war on terrorism. "As America continues to prosecute the war on terrorism, it is absolutely vital that our military have at its disposal all the tools necessary to deal with terrorist threats to our nation," Everett said.

"Currently, our armed forces can launch large bombing missions in hopes of taking out terrorist leaders, but the scale of such campaigns does not always lend itself to success. Unfortunately, our military and intelligence community is handicapped from being able to target these terrorists through smaller, more focused operations. Our Government's hands are tied due to a series of decades old executive orders banning assassination of foreigners. "The events of September 11, 2001 have dramatically changed the world in which we live, creating new, more elusive enemies. In the new global terrorism environment, the United States can no longer afford to be locked into a position of responding to terrorist attacks. We must be able to use all means available before such threats become actual terrorist

Area Happenings

THE 2003 "VALENTINE SWEETHEART PAGEANT" will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. at the Elba High School in Elba, Ala. The Elba Masonic Lodge #1704 is sponsoring the pageant, with all proceeds being used to finance numerous Lodge charities and projects.

NAACP EVENTS - Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. - NAACP CCR #5017, Executive Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Regular monthly meeting at John Chapel AME, Enterprise. For information call 393-6747 or 308-9829; Feb. 27, 7 p.m. - Black History program, sponsored by the NAACP, Coffee County branch #2212, located in Springfield, Minn. Baptist Church. Guest speaker - Rev. Freddie L. Flowers, Shady Grove AME, Elba. For information call 308-9829 or 393-6747.

THE COFFEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE (ADC) will meet Thursday, February 13, 2003 at St. Paul's Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in steel officers, and, an Executive Committee of ADC members are asked to be present.

ALABAMA BARBERS & STYLISTS ASSOCIATION is sponsoring "Bases of Barbers & Styling Hair Expo" on February 24, 2003 at 7 p.m. at MacArthur Technical College, Montgomery, Montgomery Co., Ala. For more information call 393-6747 or 308-9829.

Last Homecoming of ESJC is planned for February 20th

The last homecoming under the name Enterprise State Junior College will be held Thursday, February 20. A recent decision to merge ESJC with the Ozark aviation campus and Mobile site of Wallace Community College in Dothan also began a search for the College's new name, which is yet to be determined.

The women's basketball team will begin the battle with Wallace Community College of Selma at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men's foray at 7:30 p.m. In between the games the Homecoming Queen and her Court will be named. During half-time of the women's game, ESJC's Alumnus of the Year will be announced by Dr. Stafford Thompson, the College's president.

For more information about homecoming activities, contact Gary Deas at ext. 2233.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

If you are going to be one of the airline passengers that gets your shoes spot checked, inside and out, try to let it be in Blountville, TN. They give you a gift packet containing a free pair of athletic socks. A local Blountville company came up with the idea and donated the socks while someone else added the gift packaging. The socks probably have some promotional message on the socks, but hey - think of the many messages on T-shirts we wear, the athletic shoes or even the almost universal brand labels on shirt pockets and on the back of that pair of pants.

Last month Microsoft officials bowed to growing pressure from stockholders and announced their first ever cash dividend, out of the billions of dollars the company reportedly has sitting in the bank. However, before we start getting that same feeling that someone has finally "snapped" on the big guys, note the following: company president Bill Gates, by far the largest Microsoft stockholder with 621.7 million shares, will reap \$99,472,000.00 from his portion of the 16¢ per share dividend. That is 99 MILLION and change!!!

Sunday was Boy Scout Day in the Elba United Methodist Church, sitting there during the special service honoring the local Scouts we realized that our book reading of the night before had underlined the importance of this organization, or at least the principles for which it stands. Historian Stephens Ambrose's "Reflections of a Historian" starts with George Washington and touches on many other great people in the history of this country. As he moves through the WWII era and expounds on the pros and cons of Ike and other famous people of the era, the question arises on how the Allies won WWII. While he gave credit to a number of different variables, including Eisenhower, the Boy Scouts got a strong push. He noted that the young American GI's were either former Boy Scouts or had been raised with the principles of God and country that are basic to scouting. These young men looked at what the Germans had been offered in the Hitler Youth Corps and knew they chose Democracy over the other option, both for themselves and their families back home. Ambrose contends this motivation, coupled with the leadership training the organization instilled in the youngsters, tipped the scales in favor of the Allies, time and time again.

The Washington type lobbyists are being sure we get plenty of "news articles" promoting various parts of the newly proposed federal budget. The most active of these gracious helpers seem to be those giving us "news" about how important it is that the budget request for defense against ballistic missiles are kept in the upcoming budget. While the people writing (or being credited with writing) these articles might not be without a vested interest, they say things like, "chance that deterrence and preemption might fail, it is a prudent investment to make".

Punxsutawney Phil or whichever groundhog you follow may or may not have seen his or her shadow on February 2nd. There are "official" predictors around the country these days with conflicting results but the truth of the matter is that seeing their shadow or not seeing their shadow has nothing to do with predicting our cold weather for the next six weeks - but it is a bunch of fun talking about for a whole lot of folks all around the country.

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Persons admitted to Elba General Hospital for the period Feb. 3 - 9 include the following:

Betty Hekel, Meresia Rogers, Agnes Boothe, Idell Smith, Alma Wise, April Mooney, Jackie Stinson, Gertrude Ennis, Apochie Sistrunk, Anna Smith, Mary Barnes, Homer Coleman, Arthur Bogan, Sherry Mitchell, Angela Ortiz, Betty Corley, Pearl Williams, Betty Hekel, Silas Mauldin, Jewel Baker, Maggie Brown, Roberta Gideon, Deborah Griffen.

Tristan Henry, Derita Long, Billy Killingsworth. Those discharged during the same period of time include:

Albert Armstrong, Mary Patterson, Jackie Stinson, Agnes Boothe, Idell Smith, April Mooney, Betty Hekel, Evelyn Leverett, Meresia Rogers, Mary Paramore, Arthur Bogan, Sherry Mitchell, Apochie Sistrunk, Anna Smith, Angela Ortiz, Homer Coleman, Mary Barnes, Pearl Williams.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year
6 Months - \$9, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax
6 months - \$10
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

Los Angeles Times January 21, 2003
A County That's In Fatigues.

In Alabama, one place will sacrifice like no other if war comes. Police, teachers, even a mayor, are set to deploy, leaving critical gaps.

By Faye Fiore,
LA Times Staff Writer
CLAY COUNTY, AL—There are only two towns, five miles apart, in this little county. The nearest Wal-Mart is about 35 miles away, but few complain because life is a bit slower here. Families don't have much to spare, but everybody volunteers. And joining the National Guard and reserves is as much a way of life as turkey hunts and Wednesday night Bible study.

Lately, though, Clay County is on edge. The sun comes up and the television click on to the news as people brace for a war they know is coming. They just don't know when.

Robbie Lett has consolidated all the bills and helped his wife put her willan order Julie Lett is making videotapes so her baby girls won't forget what she looks like when she goes.

When Anita Barrett isn't frying chicken at Ms. Anita's Cafe, she is sewing stripes on Walter Kidd's dress uniform. Kidd, who wears Penny, waitress at the cafe, is doing 30 sit-ups each morning and trying to lose 20 pounds. Buddy Griffin has made sure his wife has power of attorney. Jarred Griffin is getting used to the idea of high school graduation without his father.

Tru-Wood Cabinet Co. is breaking in a new lead man for the frame department.

The Lineville High School principal is looking for a seventh-grade social studies teacher, preferably one who can also coach softball. A police chief is figuring out a way to manage without one of his five officers. The town of Ashland could lose its mayor. And the Lineville Baptist church is wondering how it will conduct minus one member.

As the nation ponders a war in Iraq, people are preparing for disruptions to their lives in neighborhoods all across America, but perhaps nowhere more so than here.

Alabama leads the nation in National Guard enlistments per capita. And by the same measure, Clay County, which contains the twin towns of Ashland and Lineville, has about 15¢ of its 13,000 residents to the Gulf War 12 years ago, more than any county in the country. Those nine months tore holes in the fabric of a tightly woven community.

"The National Guard is real big in Alabama," said Jim Luker, principal of Lineville High School, which could lose as many as three teachers to a reserves call-up. "When you

take 25 people out of a town this small, you really miss them. And when you take one teacher, 100 kids feel the effects."

A feeling of forbidding perimeters Clay County. Nearly 39,000 reserve forces have been mobilized nationally. Units all across Alabama have received orders, and Clay knows its time is coming.

Based here are the 128th Motor Company and the 1200th Battalion, which handles water purification, the only one of its kind in the state. Both services are considered vital to a war effort - particularly now, when the nation's pared-down armed forces depend more on reservists than ever before.

In addition, countless residents are attached to units in nearby counties. While Clay County's two units await deployment, a lot of the county's reservists are attached to units elsewhere have received their orders.

"We've downsized the active army. Once it could fight one, two, three major crises at one time. Not anymore," said Adjutant Gen. Mark Bowen, commander of Alabama's National Guard. He grew up in Lineville and worked for years as a pharmacist. He predicts Clay County will be asked to serve again. "Last time, we sent every one of 'em. We cleaned out the whole bunch."

These are not active-duty military towns. People here have civilian lives, but they put everything down when Washington calls, leaving colleagues, neighbors and families to fill in the gaps.

They join to be patriotic, they say, and because the extra pay helps make ends meet. They are rarely called up - before the Gulf War they were summoned by the president only once, in 1963, when Gov. George Wallace barred the door to black students at the University of Alabama.

In small communities such as Lineville and Ashland, which have a combined population of 4,300, a war takes people of standing, people who are hard to get along without. Like Ashland Mayor Norman McNatt, who wears other hats as a member of the water and sewer board and a major in the National Guard.

The citizens of Ashland call their mayor for everything from the recent spate of burglaries to a barking dog. McNatt has about a year left in his term and wants to run again, but if he's deployed he'll have two choices: resign or take what could be a long leave of absence.

"In fairness to the city, I've got to look and see what's best for the city, not what's best for Norman," he said.

Hardly a day goes by when McNatt or Bowen don't bump into somebody who wants to know when.

I broke Bowen's heart when 17-year-old Jarred Griffin, who works after school at Ashland Pharmacy, asked him whether his father, a full-time lieutenant colonel in the National Guard, would be gone for his June graduation. Bowen answered confirming what seemed likely. Less than a week later, Martha Griffin stopped by the pharmacy with tears in her eyes to tell her son that his father had been called up. "That was a bad day," Jarred said.

With so much uncertainty, life is on hold. Chief Monty Giddens of the Lineville Police Department, a force of seven including himself, isn't authorizing any vacation. He's not sure whether Cassandra Wood - a National Guard lieutenant and one of five patrol deputies - will be around in a month.

"It's not only hard on the people who leave, it's hard on the whole town," Giddens said. "If he goes, nobody can take vacation. Nobody can do anything unless somebody else is willing to fill in."

Finding stand-ins in a place this remote is a challenge, particularly for professions such as law enforcement and teaching, which explains the mess on Principal Luker's desk. He had spent much of the day trying to find a replacement for Shannon Thornbury, the seventh- and eighth-grade social studies teacher who also coaches football and softball. A sergeant first class in the Army Reserve, Thornbury, 31, was one of few

in town with orders in hand. He shipped out Friday. "You don't have a lot of certified teachers here in town, and not many people are going to drive 40 or 50 miles one way for a teaching job, especially in the middle of the year," Luker said. "It's so hard for us rural areas to replace people."

Leaving his job is not Thornbury's greatest hardship, however. His infant son needs surgery in Boston for a defective heart. Bowen, the National Guard commander, offered to pull some strings, but Thornbury refused, opting to take emergency leave when the time comes.

"That's not what I signed up to do," Thornbury said of delaying his deployment. "When duty calls, you make arrangements." As he spoke, the 19 students in his class worked on essays. When asked how many of them have family in the National Guard or reserves, nearly half of them raised their hands.

Patriotism often flourishes in small Southern towns, and Ashland and Lineville are no exception. But the gung-ho spirit that prevailed before the Gulf War seems tempered now. Residents remember when convicts rolled out for the Persian Gulf, when it felt like half of the county was leaving, the streets filled with neighbors waving flags and crying, schoolchildren assembled on lawns, yellow ribbons everywhere, hands playing.

"Saddest day of my life. You don't know what kind of environment you are going to, if you are ever coming back home or what," said Kidd, a sergeant first class with 24 years in the National Guard. He is also lead man in the frame department at Tru-Wood, where he supervises 12 workers, including his wife, Penny.

He nursed a glass of sweet tea one recent night in a booth at Ms. Anita's Cafe, where Penny works a second job as a waitress. The restaurant was empty because, nearly everyone in town was at a church. The Baptist choir was due in after practice, and Ms. Anita, as everyone calls her, was cooking hamburger steak.

There isn't anything Ms. Anita, who is 60, wouldn't do for the Kidds, she said - whether it's sewing the stripes on Kidd's uniform ("It's just too expensive at the cleaner's") or looking out for their three children after school. Her help will come in handy.

Kidd, 42, has been breaking in a man to replace him at work, but filling his shoes at home will be harder. Who will take the kids to church while Penny is working? Who will get their dinner? Or take them to their ballgames? Who will be her confidant and best friend?

"We ride to work together, take breaks together, eat lunch together. I spend the whole day with him," said Penny Kidd, 33, her eyes tearing up.

During the Gulf War, family support groups formed to help neighbors jump-start a car, fix a refrigerator, balance a checkbook, care for a child or move a lawn.

The outpouring was so great that afterward, the Legislature officially dubbed Clay the "Volunteer County of Alabama," an honor that befit not just the ones who went but the ones who stayed behind.

The women's group at Lineville Baptist already has

been assembling travel packs of pocket-sized toothpaste, shampoo and snacks. At a recent church meeting, someone suggested adding "the armed forces and their families" to the list of people to pray for on a permanent basis.

"We mention it in conversation every time we get together," said the Rev. Jerry Colquett, church pastor. "People are anxious. The wait is tough. They have been there before."

The sacrifice is about to get harder, which raises the question: Why stay in "Patriotism, Southern culture, a second income," Bowen said. "This is a poor county in a poor state."

Residents have watched businesses fold and factories move out in hard economic times. The streets that once teemed with people on Saturdays are packed with vacant storefronts. Many jobs pay just a couple of dollars over minimum wage and offer minimal retirement benefits.

Indeed, while National Guard members and reservists in other parts of the country face a pay cut when they're called up, it's often a boost in Alabama. Several employers recently offered to make up the difference for employees who earned more at their civilian jobs than they would from the military. But Bowen said, nobody could be identified as facing a pay cut.

The National Guard provides a lot - scholarships, stipends for training one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Regular domestic pay varies, according to rank and years of service, among other factors, but the average base pay is about \$375 a month. Pay for hazardous duty and overseas assignments can mean \$700 to \$800 a month in extra money, which for many people means a nest egg, a vacation, emergency cash.

It is the reason Robbie Lett is urging his wife, Julie, to aim for 30 years in the National Guard, even though it tears her apart to think of leaving her girls, Lydia, 2, and Hanna, 11 months. He is trying to get a printing business off the ground and Julie, 32, is a social worker for the state. "There is the future to think of," said Lett, 37.

For all the National Guard provides, people here give plenty back at times like these. "They make great soldiers," Bowen said. "A lot of them have lived on a farm. Staying in the woods is natural. They are used to hardships. They hunt and fish. They are born with a gun in their hands. The Army can't teach them anything on a rifle range they don't already know."

In Alabama, military service is a family legacy passed down from grandfather to father to son and, lately, daughter. Often, family members serve side by side, leaving even fewer able hands at home.

Rosalyn Wood, 55, can speak to that. In the Gulf War, she said to her husband, Monroe, son Earlin and 12 nephews and nieces. She owns Rosalyn's Hair Design in Lineville, where this afternoon "A My Children" is on the television, the praying hands of Jesus are on the wall and packs of these curls and fried pork skins are on the rack. This time, she is preparing for the departure of Earlin and her daughter, Cassandra - the Lineville

GUARD

Continued On Page 3

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GUARD (Continued From Page two)

patrol deputy. She will become chief caretaker of Cassandra's two children - their father is on active duty - and expects to help out with Earlin's six children.

"You just pray and wait and hope," she said, combing out a customer's hair. "If you are over there, you are in danger. So I just wait and wonder and pray." Indeed, nearly 95% of Clay County volunteers came home from

the Gulf War intact. Two did not - one succumbed to a heart attack, the other was shot when someone tossed a loaded rifle into a vehicle and it went off.

For now, though, it's not the danger that disturbs people the most, it's the waiting.

Someone asks Bowen, the National Guard commander, if he thinks there's a good chance they'll all go. He nods.

Coffee County Democratic Conference to meet February 13

The Coffee County Democratic Conference (ADC) will meet Thursday, February 13, 2003 at St. Beulah Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held to elect officers, and an Executive Board. All members are asked to be present.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Food Giant Supermarkets, Inc. dba Elba Marketplace #208 has made application to the City of Elba for a 070 - Retail Table Wine; 050 - Retail Beer License off premises consumption at this location, 638 North Claxton Ave., Elba, Alabama. A public hearing will be held by the City Council in their regular meeting in the Council Chamber in City Hall at 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2003.

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REXTON LADON CAMPBELL

Mr. Rexton Ladon Campbell, age 50, of 761 N. Claxton Ave., Elba, Ala., died Feb. 6, 2003 at his residence in Elba.

Funeral services were held Feb. 8, 2003 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home with Dr. Sam Brassell officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include two daughters: Allison McNeese, Dothan, Amanda Campbell, Elba; his mother: Audrey Twinnette Campbell, Elba; one sister: Barbara Bradshaw, Columbus, Ga.; two brothers: Ronnie Campbell, Brundidge; Lonnie Campbell, Elba, one grandson: Marshall White, Dothan.

KANE PATRICK SHEHEE

Infant Kane Patrick Shehee of 11384 St. Hwy. 85, Bellwood, Ala., passed away at birth Feb. 4, 2003 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan.

Funeral services were held Feb. 7, 2003 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Matt Gray and Rev. Ken Harrison officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his parents: Kayron (Whitworth) Shehee and Kelley Shehee; paternal grandparents: Freddy and Tena Shehee, Bellwood; maternal grandparents: Ronnie and Kaye Whitworth, Elba; great-grandparents: Alonzo and Gladys Shehee and Henry and Eleanor Stewart, Bellwood, AL; great-grandmothers: Ruth Mack, Elba; Emogene Whitworth, Jasper, Ala.; two uncles: Mark Shehee, Bellwood, Jamie Whitworth, Gantt, Ala.; one aunt: Lee Ann Rouse, Wetumpka, Ala.

Elba Elementary School Menu
Fed. 17 - 21, 2003

BREAKFAST
Monday - Holiday - President's Day
Tuesday - Pancake, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Scrambled Eggs, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Friday - Cheese Grits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH
Monday - Holiday - President's Day
Tuesday - Bar-B-Q Chicken, Rice, Corn, Roll, 1/2 Orange, Milk
Wednesday - Cheeseburger, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Milk
Thursday - Chicken Fingers, Turnips, Macaroni & Cheese, Cornbread, Yam Patty, Milk
Friday - Hamburger Helper, Green Salad, Corn On The Cob, Crackers, 1/2 Apple, Milk

Coffee County Schools Menu
Feb. 17-21, 2003

BREAKFAST
Monday - President's Day
Tuesday - Cinnamon Raisin Biscuit, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Chicken & Biscuit, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Scrambled Eggs, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Friday - Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH
Monday - President's Day
Tuesday - Hamburger Steak w/gravy, Chicken Str Fry, Rice, Butter Beans, Fried Okra, Fruit, Rolls, Milk
Wednesday - Sloppy Joes, Turkey Pot Pie, Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, French Fries, Fruit, Milk
Thursday - Fried Chicken, Baked Ham, Creamed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Fruit, Rolls, Milk
Friday - Cheeseburger, Hotdog, Tater Tots, Peas & Carrots, Dill Slices, Tomato Slice, Fruit, Milk

Obituaries

ANGELA DAVIS MARTIN

Angela (Angie) Davis Martin, age 42, of Enterprise, Ala., died on Feb. 5, 2003, at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 7, 2003 at College Avenue Church of Christ with Ministers Alan Watkins and Keith Ellis officiating. Burial followed at Meadowlawn Cemetery with Searcy Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her husband: Hugh H. Martin, Enterprise, Ala.; parents: Tom and Betty Davis, Enterprise, Ala.; maternal grandmother: Ruby Flowers, Enterprise, Ala.; mother-in-law: Lurline H. Martin, Elba; brother-in-law and sister-in-law: Joel and Sheila Martin, Enterprise, Ala.; three nephews; two great-nephews; two aunts; three uncles; several cousins; and other relatives and close friends.

ELDEAN STAGER

Eldean Stager, of Fairview Park, Ohio, age 93 died Sunday, January 5, 2003.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eddie Stager. She was cremated and was buried in a private service at Sunset Memorial Park, Fairview Park, Ohio. There was also a celebration of life memorial service held for her on January 19, at Willow Manor.

Mrs. Stager and her husband were former residents of Elba.

PITT "PAUL" BRUNSON

Pitt Maner "Paul" Brunson age 43, of Panama City Beach, FL, died February 6, 2003 at Panama City Beach, FL. Graveside services were held at Evergreen Cemetery of Elba on February 9, 2003 with Rev. Matt Gray officiating. The burial followed with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba, Alabama directing.

NOTE OF THANKS

L.F. CAPPS FAMILY

The family of L.F. BOE CAPPS would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, calls, food, and flowers received during the loss of our loved one. Special thanks go to Dr. Roberts and his staff, the staff of Elba General Hospital, Coffee County EMS, and to Care South Home Health Care.

THE FAMILY OF L.F. CAPPS
2-13-1tp

National Security declares quarterly dividend

The Board of Directors of the National Security Group, Inc., declared a quarterly dividend of \$.2012 per share at its meeting on January 18, 2003. This represents an annual indicated dividend rate of \$.82 per share. This cash dividend is payable on February 28, 2003 to shareholders of record February 3, 2003.

Happy Valentine's Day



Elba

Mr. Brunson was preceded in death by his parents Gwendolyn Boutwell Brunson, and Paul R. Brunson.

Survivors include two brothers and one sister-in-law, Kent Brunson and wife Diane Brunson of Montgomery, AL, and Tim Brunson of Sand Destin, FL; two sisters and two brothers-in-law, Pamela Gabe Marcum and husband Bobby Marcum of Sand Destin, FL, and Mary Francis Parker and husband Richard Parker of Birmingham, AL and several nieces and nephews.

WILLIE PEARL HODGE
Willie Pearl Hodge age 55 of County Road 338 Elba, Ala., died Saturday, February 8, 2003 at her residence in Elba.

Funeral services were held at Hayes Funeral Home Chapel on Monday, February 10, 2003 beginning at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Donnie Marler and Rev. Wayne Webber officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing. Mrs. Hodge was preceded in death by her father Ray Burgans.

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Coffee County Arts Alliance
— Presents —
"A Tribute to Lewis Grizzard"
A One Man Show Starring Bill Oberst, Jr.
February 21, 2003 • 7:30 PM
Elba High School
— TICKETS —
ENTRANCES
• David's Westgate Beauty Salon (406-1617)
• The Framery (347-7800)
• Plain 'n Fancy Gift Shop (347-4438)
ELBA - The Jewel Box (897-2296)
EL RUCKER - ITR Soldier Service Center (255-2997)
DOthan - Northcutt's On Main (793-9338)
This performance is made possible in part by a grant from The Alabama State Council On The Arts

We will be closed Monday, February 17, 2003, ONLY in observance of President's Day.
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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA

897-2006

***Scripture: Mark 9:1-29

***Thinking of you, praying for you: Hazel Parker, Bettye Burks, Neomee Smith, Carolyn Lawrence, John E. Folmar, The Roberson Family, Bettye English, Dora Belcher, Wallace and Mattie Belcher, and Ethel Elliott.

***February Birthdays and Anniversary: Bufus Sr. and Marie Tillis - February 5; Napoleon Tillis - February 10; Scottie Tillis - February 14; Marie Tillis - February 18; Bufus Tillis, Jr. - February 20.

***Rocky Head Missionary Baptist Church, Elba, Ala. Black History Program will be held February 22, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. ***Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (Tarentum Community, Brundidge) will celebrate their church anniversary on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. ***The Mulberry Baptist Association is sponsoring a Black History Program on Saturday, February 22, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. C.A. Hammond, Jr., pastor of The Pleasant Shade Missionary Baptist Church. For more information contact James Henderson - 897-3508; C.A. Hammond, Jr. - 347-8939; Ronnie Hammond - 897-6949; Winzell Gray - 897-8411; or Jerry McMillan - 897-6868.

***Those visiting Lucinda Carpenter and Ernie Lindsey Belcher, Elba, this past weekend were: Jackie Dunn, and Dimitri Crittenden, Augusta, Ga.; Janice Curtis, Ashley, and Colby Curtis, Orlando, Fla. They also visited other relatives and friends.

***Annette Harrison and Jarriace, and Pierre Leiry of Fayetteville, N.C., visited Ernie Lindsey Belcher and Ernestine Kelley, Elba, this past weekend.

Today is a good day, be grateful!

PSALM 4 QUARTET; (L-R) Bo Campbell, first tenor, Enterprise, Matt Gingery, lead/bass, Enterprise, Fred Mallory, bass, Elba, and Buck Gaines, baritone/lead, Enterprise

Psalm 4 named top group

Psalm 4, an all-male quartet from Coffee County, took top honors at the annual Emerald Coast Gospel Music Association Jubilee Weekend and Talent Search. The event, designed to promote up-and-coming groups and individuals in their Southern Gospel music, was held in Panama City, Florida, January 31 - February 1.

Psalm 4 began their music ministry a little over a year ago. Since that time they have become a popular group throughout the area singing at church homecomings, festivals, benefits, revivals, banquets, and leading in worship services.

Their up-beat music and four-part harmony is primarily Southern Gospel in style while the group mixes everything from old convention songs to the contemporary songs of the Gaither Vocal Band in creating a unique blend that appeals to a wide audience.

Psalm 4 Ministries is based on Psalm 4:7 "Thou hast put gladness in my heart" (KJV) and is dedicated to spreading this gladness and joy through song.

Members of the group are: Bo Campbell, first tenor, Enterprise; Matt Gingery, lead/bass, Enterprise; Buck Gaines, baritone/lead, Enterprise; and Fred Mallory, bass, Elba.

For booking information contact Fred Mallory at 897-8059 or Buck Gaines at 347-6755. The group appears for a love offering.

Rev. Guice to speak at Founder's Day event on February 16

The Reverend Cleophas A. Guice, Sr. of Birmingham will be the guest minister for the Founder's Day celebration on Sunday, February 16 at 2:30 p.m. at New Zion A.M.E. Church in Enterprise.

Reverend Guice, pastor of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Adamsville in Birmingham, is well known in the Enterprise area after having served as pastor in the city from 1992 to 1997. The former pastor of Johns Chapel A.M.E. Church returns to a very familiar community to pay homage to Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the A.M.E. Church. Bishop Allen and other black worshippers left a predominantly white congregation after suffering racial discrimination during worship services. This departure formed the foundation for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was established in 1787.

Reverend Guice is an itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He has served on several committees

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John Buford Sr., Elba

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Church Directory

ALBERTSON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Bible Study - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Afternoon - 5:30 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Rev. Ray Davis Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:30 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Andrew Smith Sunday School - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 6:30 p.m.	ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Lovell Martin, Pastor Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.	FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Bible Study - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Afternoon - 5:30 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Rev. Ray Davis Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:30 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Andrew Smith Sunday School - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 6:30 p.m.	ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Lovell Martin, Pastor Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.	FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

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LIFESTYLES

American Legion & Ladies Auxiliary hold February meeting

The American Legion along with the Ladies Auxiliary met on Tuesday, February 4, 2003. A delicious Valentine's dinner was enjoyed by the members. In the absence of the Commander, Adjutant Ray Kyle presided. New members, James and Miriam McKnight, were welcomed. Veterans Affairs Officer Robert Lolley gave current information pertinent to the Veterans. He held a question and answer session explaining the procedures for Veterans to get medical aid and prescriptions filled by the Administration.

The meeting was concluded with the drawing for door prizes. Appropriate Valentine gifts were won by several members.

All eligible veterans and women are invited to come to the March 4, 2003 meeting. It will begin at 6:00 PM with a covered dish supper. Prepare a favorite dish and come out for the fellowship with friends.



Bill Oberst Jr. as Lewis Grizzard

The Coffee County Arts Alliance presents "A Tribute to Lewis Grizzard" February 21 in Elba

The Coffee County Arts Alliance presents "A Tribute to Lewis Grizzard" February 21, 2003, at the Elba High School Auditorium, Elba, Alabama, 7:30 PM.

The man who was called "a Mark Twain for our times" by the New York Times and "friend" by his millions of readers is back on stage. "A Tribute to Lewis Grizzard" is a new one-man show starring Bill Oberst Jr. as Grizzard. Created by Grizzard's wife, Dedra, and his former manager, Steve Enoch, the stage portrayal is as close as you can come to seeing Grizzard on stage again - even down to the actual Guzzie loaders that Grizzard wore. This performance consists entirely of Grizzard's own words, including the famous "Definition of a Redneck" and a powerful reading from his book, "My Daddy Was A Pistol and I'm A Son-of-a-Gun."

The performance is made possible in part by a grant from The Alabama State Council On The Arts. For information, call 334-393-2797.

Ticket cost: Adults - \$14, Students - \$12. At the Door \$16.

Tickets are available at: ENTERPRISE: David's Westgate Beauty Salon (406-1617), The Framery (347-7800), and Plan in Fancy Gift Shop (347-4438). FT. RUCKER: ITR Soldier Service Center (255-2997) ELBA: The Jewel Box (897-2296).

Miss Tillery and Mr. Boyd to be united in holy matrimony Saturday, June 7 in Troy

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry F. Tillery of Troy, Ala., announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter Sabrina Hope to Leon Augustus Boyd V, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Augustus Boyd, IV of New Brockton.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Mrs. Lillian G. Green of Troy, and the late Mr. James E. Green of Opelika and the late Mr. and Mrs. George H. Tillery of Troy.

She is a 1996 graduate of Charles Henderson High School and a 2000 graduate of Troy State University in Troy, AL. She earned a degree in Sports and Fitness Management and was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She is currently pursuing a post-baccalaureate degree in dietetics from the University of Montevallo.

The future groom is the grandson of Mrs. Annemore Helms of Elba and the late Mr. Harry Bullard of Elba and Mrs. Maggie Boyd of New Brockton and the late Mr. L.A. Boyd, III.

He is a 1995 graduate of Elba High School and a 2000 graduate of Troy State University, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He is currently attending Cumberland School of Law and will receive his Juris Doctorate Degree in May. He will be employed at a law firm in Dothan, AL.

The wedding will take place at 5:00 p.m. on June 7 at First Presbyterian Church in Troy, Ala.



Miss Sabrina Hope Tillery

Alinee Lee presents Valentine's Day program to the Magnolia Home and Garden Club

The Magnolia Home and Garden Club held its regular monthly meeting at the Elba Public Library on February 6, 2003. Margaret Hasty was hostess and had the banquet room brilliantly decorated in the Valentine colors of red and white. She served light refreshments with coffee.

Syble Hahn, president, opened the business session with the reading of the Gardener's Creed. She appointed Addileen Newman

as the chairman of the nominating committee. Marlene Willis and Ann Miles will also serve to prepare the state of officers for 2003-2004.

Alinee Lee presented a very timely program about the origin of Valentine's Day. She told the story of Cupid and his love affair. Each member received the makings to create valentines for the special persons in her life. Afterwards, the valentines were shared with each other.

Hudson Wise celebrates 3rd birthday

Hudson Wise, son of Gappa and Mona Wise, celebrated his 3rd birthday with a party and barbecue at his home in Elba, along with family members and friends.

Those attending were his grandparents Dwight and Carolyn Kelley, Elba; Shirley and Robin Earl Morgan, Enterprise; his great-grandmother, Mary Alice Wise, Elba; uncle, aunt and cousins, David, Kim, Andrew and Trey Lowery, Brantley; and Uncle Jetye Wise, Enterprise.

Hudson is also the grandson of Mary Lacey Nolin, Reid Level and the late James J. Wise Jr., Elba.



Hudson Wise

SHIRLEY EDBERG, of the General Edmond Winchester Rucker Chapter of The United Daughters of the Confederacy, is pictured with articles collected for the Veterans Hospital as one of the group's projects for the year. Items collected included books, games, magazines, puzzles, etc., and emphasize the patriotism and benevolence objectives of the organization. "We feel it is important to let those men and women know that they are remembered and appreciated for their dedication and sacrifice to give us the freedoms we enjoy," said a spokesperson for the group. UDC members Lavonia Helms and Donna Clark also were included in the visit to the VA Hospital in Montgomery on Jan. 18.

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Area students on Dean's List at The University of Alabama

A total of 3,050 students enrolled the fall 2002 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or above, or the President's List with academic records of 4.0, announced Dr. Nancy Barrett, UA provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Local students include: Christina Cook, Anderson, Daniel Matthew Murdock, and Stephanie Christina Sasser all of Elba; Rachel Elaine Carroll of New Brockton; and Jessica Elizabeth Smith of Brantley.

Talent Literary Guild sponsoring Poetry Writing Contest

The Talent Literary Guild is sponsoring an amateur poetry contest, free to everyone. There are 50 prizes in all, including a \$1,000.00 grand prize.

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less; Free Poetry Contest, 1257 Siskiyau Blvd, PMB 4, Ashland, OR 97520, or enter online at www.freecontest.com.

Poems may be written on any subject, using any style. The deadline for entering is March 20, 2003. The editors reserve the right to publish the winning poems online. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

U.S.D.A. LEAN T-BONE STEAK \$3.97

U.S.D.A. BOTTON ROUND ROAST \$1.97

COOK'S BUTT PORTION HAM \$1.17

U.S.D.A. BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND STEAK \$2.37

CHILEAN SEEDLESS WHITE GRAPES 77¢

GOLDEN RIFE CHICHITA BANANAS 3/8 1

FRESH SWEET STRAWBERRIES \$2.47

PIGGLY WIGGLY AMERICAN SINGLES \$1.57

PIGGLY WIGGLY WHOLE TOMATOES 2/77¢

KECKY ANGEL FOOD DUNCAN HINES CAKE MIXES 97¢

SWANSON POT PIES 2/8 1

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SCHOOLS

Character Trait

by Mary Katherine Head

Since Valentine's Day is upon us, I thought it would be appropriate to write this week's character trait on love. Love cannot be summed up in a strict dictionary definition, for there are many kinds of love. There is love between family members arising of kinship or personal ties. There is love between friends, resulting from common interests and shared experiences, and then there is a more mature love that develops between couples out of respect and a lifetime together.

With all of love's many aspects, one thing is always constant. True love doesn't try to change people. Instead, as quoted by Robert Frost, "We love the things we love for what they are." People never change either. They love to feel loved. So, on this Valentine's Day, be sure to let your sweetheart, friend, or family member know how much you care, whether you give them a box of \$1 chocolates or send them a \$60 bouquet of roses.

Elba High School students attend honor band

by Kimberly Farris

My twin sister, Katrina, and I attended the South Eastern United States honor band at Troy State University from January 30 to February 1, 2003.

Thursday night was probably the most hectic day of the honor band because that is when everyone had to audition for chair placement. Luckily, I did not have to audition because I play the Contra Alto Clarinet and only two were accepted for the two honor bands, which are of equal ability.

The two honor bands were the



Tiger Tales

Editor:
Sheena Flowers



100 Point Club Members... L to R: Jessie White, Dylan McCollough, Shelby Adcock, Jamison Baker, Jason Mitchell and Ethan Dodd. These students have earned at least 100 AR points and have at least a 75 average. They will be rewarded later in the school year with a hamburger cookout.

Crimson band and the Silver band. I was put into the Crimson band while Katrina, who plays the Bass Clarinet, made the Silver band.

The Crimson band's guest clinician was Colonel John R. Bourgeois USMC (Retired). Colonel Bourgeois was in the President's Own Marine Band from 1958 to 1996. His career spanned from playing for President Eisenhower to President Clinton. On the last day of practice for the concert Colonel Bourgeois answered questions and told several anecdotes about his days in the Marine Band.

Robert W. Smith, formerly of Daleville, AL, was the clinician for the Silver band. Mr. Smith is a world renowned composer of such pieces as "The Great Locomotive Race", "The Inferno", and "The Divine Comedy". Mr. Smith brought one of his latest works for the Silver band to play. This song, "The Great Steamboat Race", was performed that Saturday night, surprising the audience when the percussionist used gallon jugs with water in them to imitate the sound of a steamboat traveling up the Mississippi River.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK (by Alex Benbow)...Contestants that didn't make it.

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Happy Valentine's Day ♥

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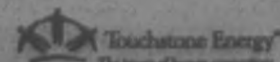
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EES recently completed Math-A-Thon

by Katie Driggers

Recently Elba Elementary successfully completed the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon.

Math-A-Thon is an educationally based fund-raising program in which students obtain sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks provided for students. The program is sponsored nationally by Six Flag Theme Parks, which provides free passes to their parks for every student raising \$35 or more. 37 participants from the fourth, fifth, and sixth raised \$1637.82.

The winner of the Math-A-Thon was Dylan Seay. He raised a total of \$286. He received a certificate, a t-shirt, a ticket to Six Flags, a sport bag and a CD player. The following

"We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon," said Mrs. Dye, volunteer coordinator. "With their help, St. Jude Children's research Hospital will be able to



Elba Elementary School Math-A-Thon winners

create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for many forms of cancer that will benefit the children of our state, our country and around the world. I also want to extend our thanks to the Elba community for supporting our students. It takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer, and we can all feel proud of our response."

"We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon," said Mrs. Dye, volunteer coordinator. "With their help, St. Jude Children's research Hospital will be able to

Co-Op Spotlight

by Shawna Hill



Bianca Watkins

Jesse Holloway is a member of the 1st Baptist Church and is employed at Kelley Foods. He is the 17-year-old son of Matt and Judy Holloway and a senior of EHS. His favorite song is "Love to lay you down". Jesse is involved in FFA, VICA, and is a hard working student. His hobbies consist of hunting, fishing, and relaxing at home. Congratulations to Jesse Holloway!!!!

Accelerated Reader Student Spotlight

Bianca Watkins is this being spotlighted because she recently became a member of the 75 Point Club in Elba Elementary's Accelerated Reader rewards program. Bianca also has an eight-eight average to go along with her high AR Points. This second grader is in Mrs. Gena Benbow's classroom. Bianca favorite books are the series known to the children as the Arthur books written by Marc Brown and Lillian Hoban. Besides reading Bianca enjoys her Physical Education class at E.E.S.



Bianca Watkins

Elba High senior boys attend Youth Summit Career Day

by Kaci Grantham

Elba High School senior boys attended Youth Summit Career Day on January 30, 2003. When the boys arrived at the Dothan Civic Center, they talked about drugs and colleges. The seniors were given snacks to munch on while they observed the booths and discussed the different possibilities of career choices. The career booths were giving students pens, pencils, stickers and other paraphernalia relating to different occupations or fields of study.

At the end of the day the Northview football players performed a fashion show. Career Day was a big success among all seniors.



Enrichment time is fun time at Elba Elementary

Recently these sixth grade students made valentine picture frames during their monthly enrichment class. Students used cardboard frames and covered it with heart fabric to make this handmade gift, for someone special, for the upcoming holiday. This activity was directly by Mrs. Seay, Media Specialist.



SALUTE!! GREAT JOB

Valentine's Day is not what it use to be

Submitted by Jessica L. Hathcock

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Although it is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, with the giving of candy, flowers, or other gifts between couples in love, it originated in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop.

For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church looked for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been beheaded by Emperor Claudius.

In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes.

Although the church had banned the lottery for women, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It became a tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection, containing Valentine's name.

The first Valentine card grew out of this practice. Charles, duke of Orleans, sent the first true Valentine card in 1415 to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time. Cupid, another symbol of the holiday, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards.

SCHOOL NEWS

Faculty Spotlight



Paula Maddox

by DeAnna Donaldson

This month Paula Maddox is in the faculty spotlight for the month of February. She received her teaching degree at Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky. Mrs. Maddox earned a B.S. degree in Vocational Home Economics Education and a M.A. + 30 in Guidance and Counseling, she also holds a School Psychology endorsement from Troy State. Dothan and a minor in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. She has been teaching for a total of nineteen years. Her first job was at Trigg County High School, which is also her Alma Mater. She has also taught at Hopkinsville High School and Carroll High School. She says her enjoyment of young people drove her to become a teacher.

Mrs. Maddox has been married for thirteen years. She has five kids: Katie who is twenty-seven, Ben who is twenty-five, Buddy who is twenty-three, Charlie who is twenty-one, and Sarah who is nineteen. She also has two grandchildren, Pargie who is seven and Kagen who is two, as well one due in August.

Mrs. Maddox contributes to her community by being a member of the Three Seasons Garden Club as well as attending the First Methodist Church in New Brockton.

FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton School News
Sponsors: Lori Cotney & Lynn Baker



100 days of school

By: Erica Locklin and Amy Hill

The hundredth day of school has come so soon. The New Brockton Elementary School kindergarten and first grade cel-

ebrated this important day. Some of their activities include jumping and hundred times, marching a hundred steps, and walking a hundred steps. They made things showing that it was

the hundredth day of school and played many computer games. All together they said this was the best day of school.

Audrey Hawkins wins county-wide Spelling Bee

By: Brandon Lee and Hayden Smith

Coffee County had a county wide Spelling Bee. Kinross, Zion Chapel, Holley Hill, and New Brockton all participated. The Spelling Bee was held Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at 1:00 at Central Office in Elba. Contestants from each school in the county participated. The overall winner in Coffee County was Audrey Hawkins, a 4th grader from New Brockton

Elementary. Each of the county winners will meet in March in Birmingham for the state Spelling Bee. Audrey said during the Spelling Bee she was not nervous, and at first she didn't think she could spell a certain word. She said the words were easy. Also, about the state who says she is scared, nervous, and she thinks she is going to win. New Brockton Elementary is very proud of Audrey and her success.

Mytlesha Andrews and Amy Hill Students enjoy Language Arts Class

By: Anthony Nevels

Mrs. Baker's Language Arts Class is reading a book called Hatchet. It is about a boy who is in an airplane crash. In order to learn more about airplanes we built one. We built them from poster board and some people named and decorated them. In order to build the planes we had to follow instructions. After we built our planes we had three rounds of competition. Here are the winners: In the 1st round The Midnight Avenger flown by Mytlesha Andrews. In 2nd and 3rd rounds the winner was The Survivor flown by Amy Hill.

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kids view on war

By: Justin Sharp, Brittney Eubanks, Vanessa Stuckey

War. That single word can make shivers run up and down your spine. Separation. This affects everyone, especially kids. Children have many comments on war.

Chelsea Dempsey a 6th grader at NBES expresses her feelings about war: "War is stupid, it is a bad influence on chil-

dren." Chelsea Smith, another student says, "I think it is very bad, people should just talk about it without violence."

Then it is always good to look on the funny side on such a serious topic. War cost too much money.

As you can see everyone has their own opinion. Either good or bad it all comes out the same way War is not needed.

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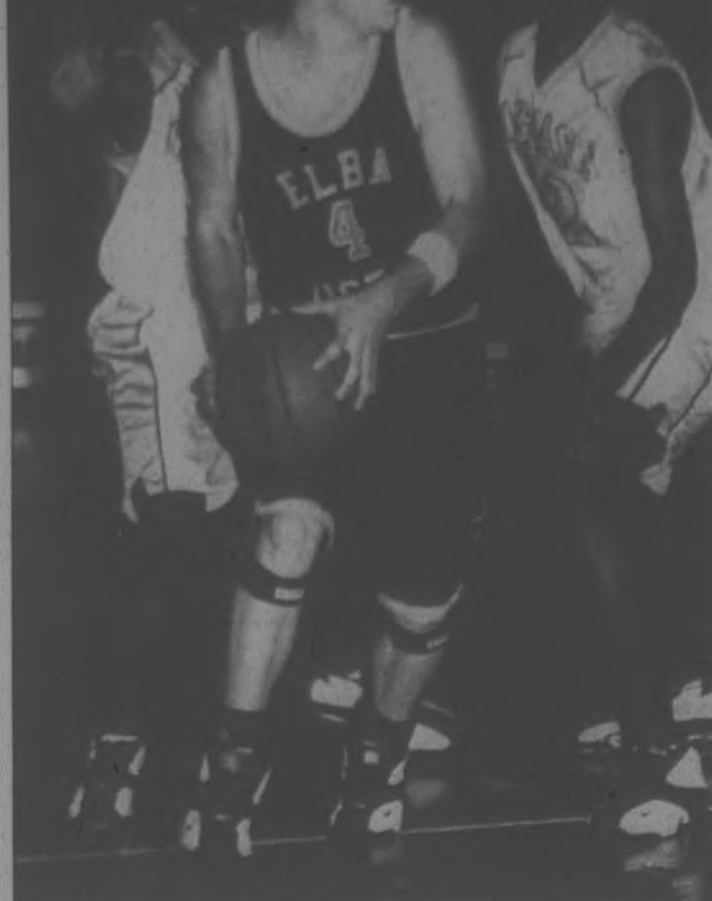
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SPORTS

Dump Straughn in area opener 68-60

Elba Tigers roar into area finals



Elba's Kyle English (4) looks for a teammate after pulling down a rebound. English and the Tigers will compete in sub-region play Friday night needing a win to advance to Troy State.

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie celebrated a birthday last week and I kidded her before we sang Happy Birthday that it was time for the years to start going in reverse and how glad I was that she was 12 years old, again. She didn't agree with Dad's plans, however, and by the end of the week was already wanting to practice driving. It looks like Daddy's little girl is growing up way too fast!

SPORTING AROUND THE AREA...

*** The Elba Tigers evened their record at 10-10 and earned the right to advance to the area finals and sub-region play last week by claiming a 68-60 win over Straughn in the opening round of the area tournament. While the 10-10 record is quite an accomplishment after the Tigers' miserable 1-6 start, it is even more amazing when one stops and remembers that the Tigers have two seniors and one sophomore on the team, while the remainder of the team is filled with freshmen. Elba could find another win hard to come by since their next game is against Abbeville, a team that has scored over 100 points twice in lopsided wins over the Tigers, and then in sub-region will run into either Calhoun or Central of Hayneville. Calhoun is the defending state champ in 3A, while Central has won two of the last three state titles in 4A, and if the Tigers should lose in the area finals they will have to hit the road and play in the gym of the area winner from Area 3's tourney. No matter what happens in the days to come, this year's Tigers have fought hard throughout the season to earn respect and have certainly done that, and more.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers made it to the area finals last week with a win over Straughn and once again are making plans to battle for an area title and a trip to sub-region. The Lady Tigers have struggled at times throughout the season and have lost big on occasion, but pushed their record to 13-8 with the win in the area tournament, and when they are hitting from behind the arc they can play with anyone. These girls are also young and are led by a junior and an 8th grader. However, the Elba girls never back down and never give up no matter what the scoreboard might read. With Abbeville straight ahead and then a possible trip to Barbour County waiting in the wings, it is clear to see that the youngsters will get some valuable lessons about playing on the road and playing against the best in days to come. The key will be to learn from those lessons when next season tips off.

*** The tournament trail proved to be a rough ride for many of the teams in the county as only the Kinston Bulldogs were able to make it to an area final and punch their ticket into sub-region play. The Bulldogs improved their record to 14-12 with an opening round win in the area tournament over Houston County and are no doubt peaking for the right time, and if the Bulldogs could steal a win at Cottonwood they would then get to host a sub-region game, possibly against Pleasant Home. These Bulldogs took some time to get going, but are on a roll and very much alive.

Looking at the remainder of the county teams, the Kinston Lady Bulldogs (11-14) saw their season end when a last-second shot failed to beat the buzzer in a 42-40 loss to Houston County, while the Lady Gamecocks from New Brockton also closed the year at 11-14 with a tournament loss to Highland Home and the Lady Rebels from Zion Chapel put an end to a winless season with a loss to Arton. The Lady Bulldogs have improved by leaps and bounds in recent years and are close to being a 1A power, while the season marked the end of the Barbara Cole era as coach of the Lady Gamecocks, and was just another in a long list of lessons for the youthful Lady Rebels from Zion Chapel.

Over with the boys, New Brockton pulled off one upset in the area tournament, but then was ousted by G.W. Long and closed out the season with a 9-17 slate. The Gamecocks did take a step toward becoming a winning basketball team this season, and will be ready to take that next step next season. The Zion Chapel Rebels struggled through an 0-18 season, but the Rebels always played hard and if the players will work hard there is no doubt wins will come.

*** Last week's national signing day for high school football players was a reason to celebrate for most colleges and for all high school players, and locally Elba's Marcus Henderson moved on to the next level by signing with UAB. Henderson's lack of size was a negative for many college recruiters, but in the end the 6-2, 205 pounder was offered a scholarship by UAB, and the Tiger standout jumped on the chance to play college ball and inked his name on the paper. I hope that Henderson makes his mark for the Blazers and shows UAB coaches that Elba Tigers have the skills and desire needed to play at the next level.

*** In closing... the high school baseball and softball seasons are just around the corner and once again it looks like an exciting season ahead at Elba High. The baseball team had no seniors on last year's area championship team and should be loaded for another run at the playoffs, while the softball team made its move to fast-pitch last season and this year should be a contender. Yep, the sports scene at Elba High never ends, it just changes uniforms.

The Elba Tigers evened their record at 10-10 and punched their ticket into Sub-Regional play Friday night by posting a hard fought 68-60 win over the Straughn Tigers, in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament, held at the Wallace College gym, in Midland City.

Straughn came out looking to avenge two regular season losses to the Tigers from Coffee County and stunned Elba by jumping out to a 9-3 lead with 4:01 remaining in the opening stanza. Baskets by Mason Guiley and LaRay Williams helped Elba pull within 9-7 with 3:19 remaining, and when Kyle English scored on a twisting lay-up with 1:46 left the Tigers had caught Straughn at 11-11.

Elba's Marchello Reed hit two free-throws early in the second quarter to give Elba its first lead of the game at 15-13, but Straughn answered with a 4-0 run to regain the lead at 17-15, and the score was tied at 19-19 with 5:35 remaining after a steal and a lay-up by Marcus Henderson. Elba moved on to put 25-21 with 2:08 left in the half on a pair of free-throws by Quinton Gavin, and then took its biggest lead of the half at 30-23 with 37 left after a free-throw by LaRay Williams.

Straughn scored the final three points of the second quarter and then scored early in the third quarter to cut the Elba lead to 32-28, only to see Elba pull back ahead 36-28 as Marcus Henderson hit two free-throws and then scored on a short jumper. A basket by Marchello Reed sparked a 7-0 Elba rally midway through the stanza that helped the Tigers move out to a

Lady Tigers rip Straughn 52-41

The Elba Lady Tigers improved their record to 13-8 and moved into the area finals Friday night by rolling past the Straughn Lady Tigers 52-41, in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament, held at Wallace College, in Midland City. The Lady Tigers had trouble finding the basket early in the game and trailed 6-2 after a Straughn basket with 2:24 remaining in the opening stanza. Ayonna Proctor scored four points over a one-minute span late in the quarter to pull Elba even at 6-6, but Straughn's Andrea Cochran nailed a long three-pointer with :10 left as Straughn regained the lead at 9-6 heading into the second quarter. Straughn scored two quick baskets in the second quarter to move on to 13-6. However, the Lady Tigers began to find their range midway through the stanza and went on a 8-2 run to cut the lead to 15-14 with 2:34 left after a lay-up by LaFondra Thigpen. The Lady Tigers took their first lead of the night at 18-17 on two free-throws by Whitney Lawford with 1:29 remaining in the quarter, but Straughn staged a late rally of its own and pulled ahead 22-18 with :04 remaining, only to see Elba pull within one at 22-21 when LaFondra Thigpen drilled a three-pointer at the buzzer.

A lay-up by Tunisia Thigpen and a three-point by Laguna Mack helped the Lady Tigers move ahead 26-22 early in the third quarter, and the Lady Tigers took their biggest lead of the quarter at 29-24 with 5:41 left in the third quarter. Elba (22) trailed 15, Lawford 2, Reynolds 6, Tyson 2, Thigpen 5, Mack 8, L. Thigpen 14. Straughn (41): Cochran 3, Parker 8, McClelland 11, Nail 14, Turner 5.

Elba (22): Proctor 15, Lawford 2, Reynolds 6, Tyson 2, Thigpen 5, Mack 8, L. Thigpen 14.

Straughn (41): Cochran 3, Parker 8, McClelland 11, Nail 14, Turner 5.

Elba Lady Tiger Tunisia Thigpen dribbles upcourt during a recent win. The Lady Tigers will compete in sub-region play on Thursday night.

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Tiger senior Marcus Henderson (32) soars in for an easy basket. Henderson scored 18 points Friday night to lead the Tigers past Straughn in area tournament play.

Elba (22): Proctor 15, Lawford 2, Reynolds 6, Tyson 2, Thigpen 5, Mack 8, L. Thigpen 14.

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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 20, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

J.B. Taylor Diagnostic Lab in Elba gets digester system through \$700,000 grant

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

In separate announcements last week both Senator Richard Shelby and Representative Terry Everett announced that the grant for a \$700,000 state-of-the-art carcass disposal digester system to be used at the J. B. Taylor Diagnostic Lab in Elba had survived the budget compromise committee and was in line for passage later that day.

Following the official approval Shelby issued the following statement:

"This funding will allow Auburn University to purchase an Alkaline Digester Carcass Disposal System to be placed at the J.B. Taylor Diagnostic Laboratory in Elba, Alabama. The purchase of this system will allow Alabama to move into the forefront of agroterrorism prevention and response. Given the concerns that have been expressed about new animal dis-

eases, I felt it was important for Alabama to have such an important tool for the quick disposal of diseased animals so we may prevent a wide-spread outbreak and protect our agricultural producers and consumers."

At about the same time a news release from Everett's office said in part:

"Agriculture remains one of Alabama's major industries and continued investment in agribusiness projects is essential to maintain Alabama agriculture's competitiveness and profitability," Everett observed. "The 2003 federal agriculture programs continue to capitalize on Alabama's high tech resources, climate, and farm expertise."

"Elba, Alabama's J.B. Taylor Diagnostic Animal Laboratory is earmarked to receive a \$700,000 Alkaline Digester System. In cooperation with Auburn University, the Elba lab will be

able to safely and effectively dispose of diseased animal carcasses."

This disposal system will complement a completely new facility scheduled to be built directly behind the existing diagnostic lab, on land being donated by the Elba Industrial Development Board and the City of Elba. It is being funded with part of a bond issue approved several years ago by Alabama voters. Bids were opened for construction of the new building last fall, however all bids exceeded the allotted funds of approximately one million dollars. State Department of Agriculture officials sent the planners back to the drawing boards to "trim the fat".

Tuesday morning these state officials couldn't give an exact date for readvertising construction of the facility, explaining they were still trying to find more money and/or put the entire financial puzzle together.

City of Elba plans Sesquicentennial Celebration

by Linda Hodge, Editor

A committee has been formed, and Elba's planning a Sesquicentennial Celebration! But what exactly is a sesquicentennial celebration? Well, it will be a celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of Elba's incorporation date...more appropriately named... "Celebrate Elba 150."

Many of the details are still being worked out for the celebration, but steering committee chairman Jimmy Harrison said two events are set in stone.

For those history buffs out there, April 13 may ring a bell as being a significant date for the City of Elba. That's because the history books say it was April 13, 1853 when Elba was incorporated.

With this in mind, the 150th celebration is set to begin April 13 with the Celebrate Elba 150 Kickoff. This will be a religious ceremony led by the Elba United Methodist Church (also 150 years old this year) and will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 13.

In August, things will get really exciting as "The Possum" will visit the county seat to provide a memorable concert. The legendary George Jones is set to entertain on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Elba's Miller Memorial stadium.

Harrison said advance tickets will be sold for this concert; however, he is not sure at this

time when the sales will begin. "We are talking about having other activities including a sesquicentennial ball," Harrison said. "The plan is to have these activities throughout the year."

Another possible event will include a play adapted to focus on significant events Elba has endured, and Harrison said all this will culminate with a weekend festival sometime in the fall.

Also, banners will be used throughout the city and will be available for purchase by the citizens.

"This event is meant to honor all the citizens of Elba, past and present," said Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce. "We just want the whole town to get involved."

Right now, the steering committee is working to establish corporate sponsors and looking for volunteers.

"We need a large, large number of volunteers," Harrison said. "And, we envision getting a lot of clubs involved with the events."

A celebration headquarters will soon be opened in the old Whitman's Drug Store building on the square in Elba, and a web site has already been established at the following address: <http://www.alaweb.com/~elba150>.

Anyone interested in keeping up with the plans for the celebration can visit the headquarters or the web site, and Harrison said

the committee will keep the public informed of future plans through The Elba Clipper.

This is truly a landmark time for the City of Elba, and we feel it is something that should be celebrated," Whitworth said. "After all, it's not that often someone gets the opportunity to celebrate a town's 150th anniversary."

Until the celebration headquarters office has been established, citizens are urged to call Jimmy Harrison at 897-8591 or 897-2055. Also, phone calls can be placed to the Elba Chamber of Commerce for additional information at 897-3125.

"On a side note: Other landmark events to be celebrated in 2003 include the 150th Annual Brunson Reunion and the 100th birthday of the Coffee County Courthouse building in Elba."

Coffee County BOE prepares to complete ZC ball field project

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, Feb. 6, and found the items on the agenda to be rather routine.

The first matter up for approval concerned the time in which the monthly meetings are held, and board members voted unanimously to change the meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

The board looked at the proposed school calendar for next year, and Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram said the proposal calls for the 2003-04 school year to begin on Friday, Aug. 1.

After discussing the proposal briefly, Ingram suggested that board members take time to look the calendar over and come back with any suggestions at the next board meeting. She said the proposed calendar has been posted at the schools, and she already has received a few suggestions from teachers.

The board took advantage of the school system's fleet renewal money and approved the purchase of two new school buses, Ingram said she had hoped to get three new buses but decided the system would be better served with two considering the amount of fleet renewal money received.

Only two bids were submitted for the buses and board members voted to accept the low bid from Southland International for the two buses.

"We have the money now to pay for them," Ingram said. "They (Southland) can deliver within 10 days and will certify the buses on the lot before they

come to Coffee County." The newly purchased buses have a seating capacity of 70 students.

Before moving on with the meeting, Ingram told board members that last year was the only time Coffee County has not purchased new buses. As a general rule, she said the system usually buys two or three buses at a time.

The ongoing discussion of capital projects surfaced again, and Ingram said the architect indicated it would be best to combine the projects since all have some wiring involved. Otherwise, she said job superintendents would have to be hired for each separate project which would cost the county additional money.

"If we are going to hire an electrical crew, it will be better to hire one firm rather than different ones for each job," Ingram said.

Board members also discussed the ongoing ball field project at Zion Chapel in which the superintendent said she was proud to say the students will play ball there this year. At the time of the board meeting, Ingram said the boys were already using their field for practice sessions.

With this project nearing completion, Ingram recommended the board give its approval to go ahead and finish the ball field project including the paving of the parking lots.

Board members unanimously passed the motion to complete the Zion Chapel ball field project including paving, as well as, to combine the other approved capital projects into one large project.

Ingram proudly announced to board members that increased student enrollment this year earned the Coffee County School System 2.42 additional teacher units which will also bring in \$88,914 in additional state funding.

At the conclusion of the regular board meeting, Ingram provided a power point presentation to those in attendance concerning the REACH (Realizing Every Alabama Child's Hopes) Program.

During the presentation, the superintendent revealed there is no place in the United States that citizens pay less taxes than in the State of Alabama. She highlighted several things that could improve if only more money was provided for the education system, and compared the differences between states with more education money to those with less education money.

In conclusion, Ingram said, "We need to look at what is happening in Alabama and what can be done."



LAB TO BE REPLACED...The existing J.B. Taylor Diagnostic Animal Laboratory, commonly called "the swine lab" around Elba is to be replaced in the new future with a new state-of-the-art building. A bond issue through the Department of Agriculture and Industries will fund the million dollar plus facility. There will also be help from a federal grant engineered by Senator Richard Shelby and Representative Terry Everett.

Local law officials make several drug busts

Local law enforcement agencies recently have combined efforts to crack down on the manufacture of methamphetamine by raids on illegal labs.

Through sharing information gained by each agency involved (Coffee County Sheriff's Department, 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force, Elba Police Department, Kinston Police Department, Enterprise Police Department and Covington County Sheriff's Department) officers were able to obtain search warrants or were attempting to serve previously obtained felony warrants when the labs were found.

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, Nancy Marie Bradley, age 21, of 4211 County Rd. 651, Chancellor, was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Derek Stinson, age 34, and Delsie Stinson, age 30, were arrested in Elba and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana first degree and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, Russell Kim McGill, age 34, and Lisa

drug paraphernalia. Raybon was charged with unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance first degree, trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Derek Stinson, age 34, and Delsie Stinson, age 30, were arrested in Elba and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana first degree and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, Russell Kim McGill, age 34, and Lisa

Please See DRUGS, Page 3

Area Happenings

THE ELBA PUBLIC LIBRARY will host a book signing session Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon for author Laura Zerk. The book signing will feature Zerk's latest book, *The Golden Child Days*, which was released in October 2002.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 24, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brandon.

ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will hold graduation ceremonies for its D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness and Resistance in Education) program Friday, Feb. 28, at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. The guest speaker for the event will be Alabama State Trooper Johnny Stone.

THE ELBA UNION CLUB will hold its annual pancake breakfast Thursday, March 1, from 8-10 a.m. at the Elba Senior Citizens Building.

STREET CLOSED...Martin Luther King Drive in Elba will be closed to traffic to allow work pertaining to the levee rehabilitation project. According to officials, the street will be closed approximately 4 to 6 weeks. During this time, workers will relocate lines and build up the levee to meet the specifications of the rehabilitation project. As shown, land clearing and road markings have been taken care of in preparation of the work.